

An Introduction to the Nevada Important Bird Areas Program

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Overview

- IBA Program
- History of the IBAs in Nevada
- Current status
- Future program goals



What is an “Important Bird Area”?

- Definition:

Places that are identified as being important to bird populations for breeding, nesting, migration, and wintering habitat for one or more species of birds



More information on IBAs

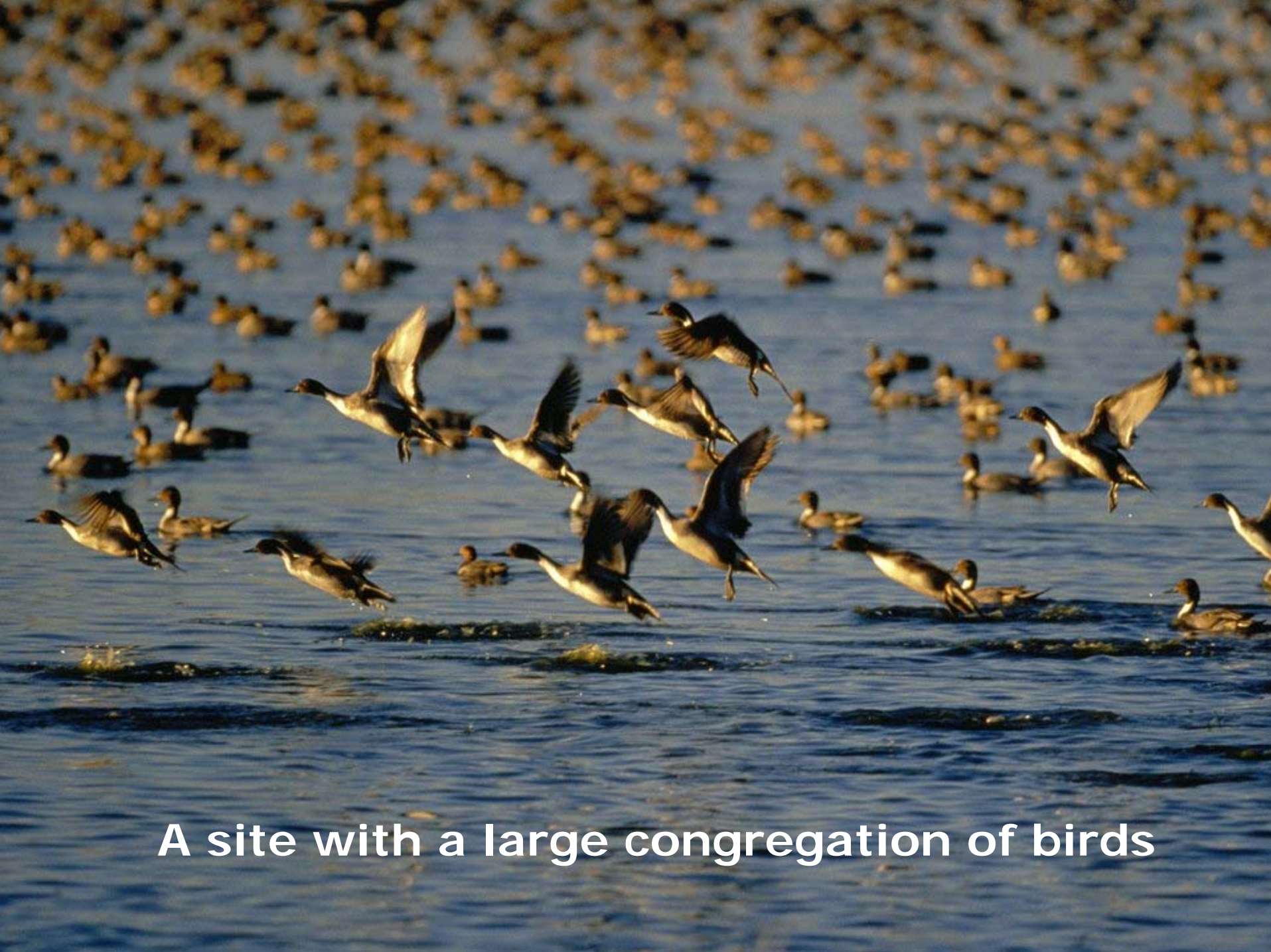
- A joint program between the National Audubon Society and the Lahontan Audubon Society (chapter)
- International effort
- Highest priority landscapes for preservation and stewardship



IBA Criteria

- A site must meet at least one of the following criteria to be recognized as an “important bird area” in Nevada
 - Some sites can be recognized as continental and global IBAs based on the same criteria





A site with a large congregation of birds



Sites supporting a Species of Concern
or sites with species tied to that
habitat type

**A site that supports long-term
avian research**



A site that provides educational opportunities



NV Species of Concern Definition

- **Nevada Partners in Flight**
 - **ESA Listed T&E Species**
 - **Habitat Threat**
 - **Importance of Area**
 - **Low Numbers/Isolated Population**
 - **Population Trend**
 - **Uniquely Representative of a Habitat Type**
 - **Umbrella Species**



History of Nevada's IBAs

- Nomination & recognition process
 - Technical Advisory Committee
- 39 Recognized IBAs
- Development of conservation plans for every IBA
 - IBA information, avian species, threats, and stakeholders
 - Baseline management information

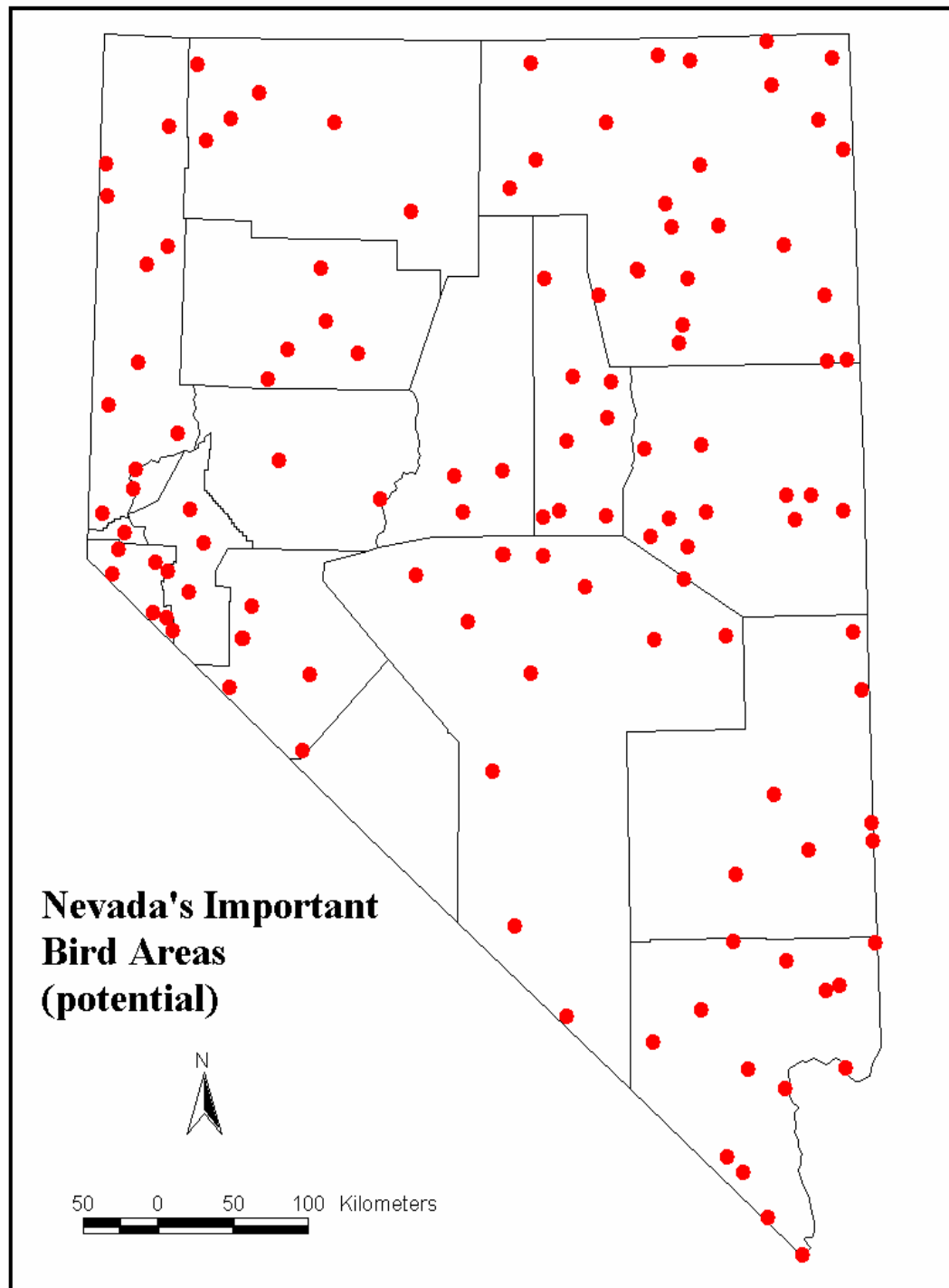


The IBA Process

1. Establish criteria
2. Nominate sites
3. Contact landowners & managers
4. Review and select IBAs
5. Document sites through publication
6. Establish monitoring program
7. Identify conservation needs
8. Implement conservation plans

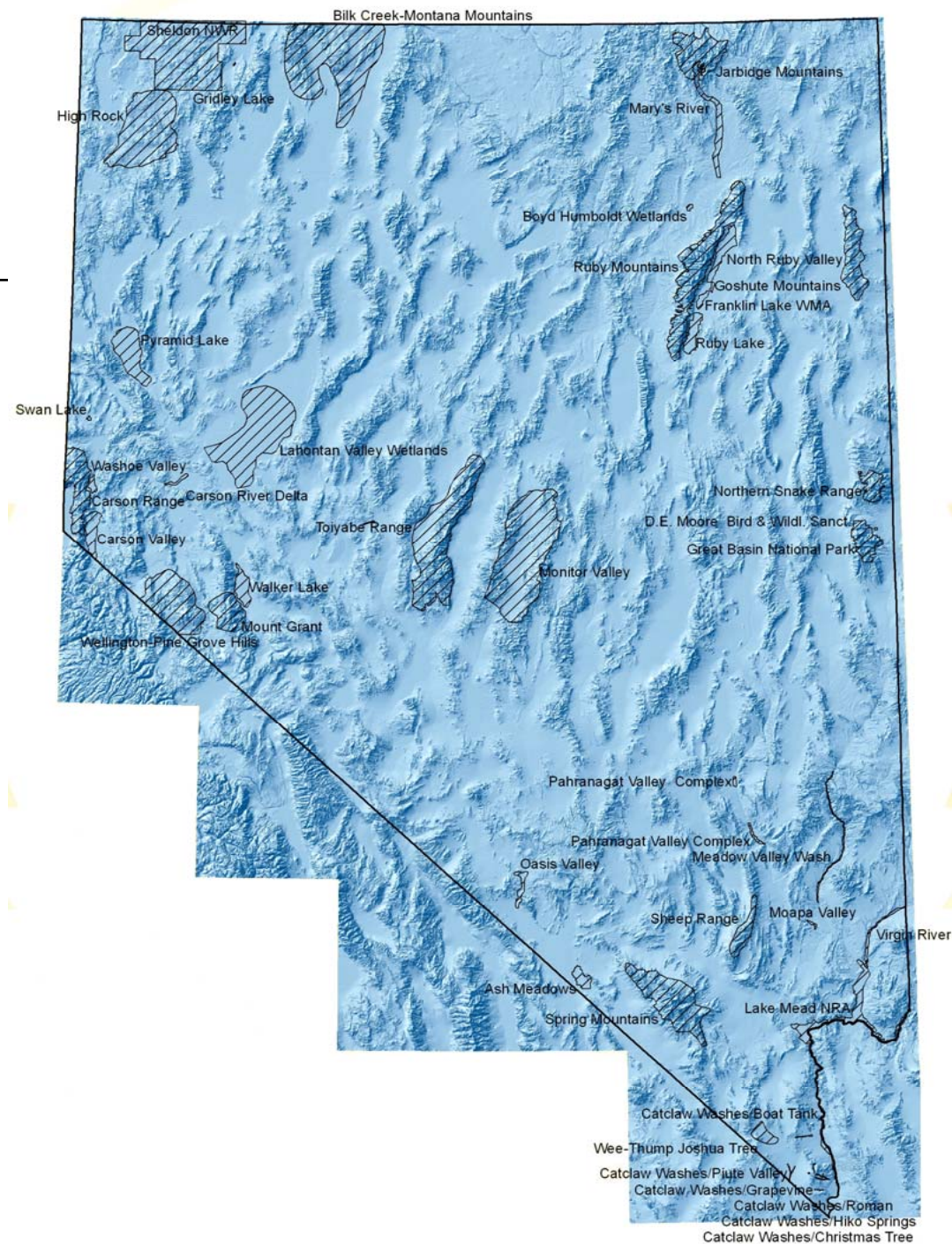


Map of Potential IBAs



Map of IBAs

The 39 IBAs represent
15% of Nevada's land base



Northwestern Nevada IBAs

- Sheldon NWR
- Bilk Creek-Montana Mtns
- Gridley Lake
- High Rock Canyon
- Pyramid Lake
- Swan Lake
- Lahontan Valley Wetlands
- Washoe Valley
- Carson Range
- Carson Valley
- Carson River Delta



Northeastern Nevada IBAs

- Jarbidge Mtns
- Mary's River
- Goshute Mtns
- North Ruby Valley
- Ruby Mountains
- Boyd Humboldt Wetlands
- Franklin Lake WMA
- Ruby Lake



Central Nevada IBAs

- Walker Lake
- Mount Grant
- Wellington-Pine Grove Hills
- Monitor Valley
- Northern Snake Range
- D.E. Moore Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary
- Great Basin National Park

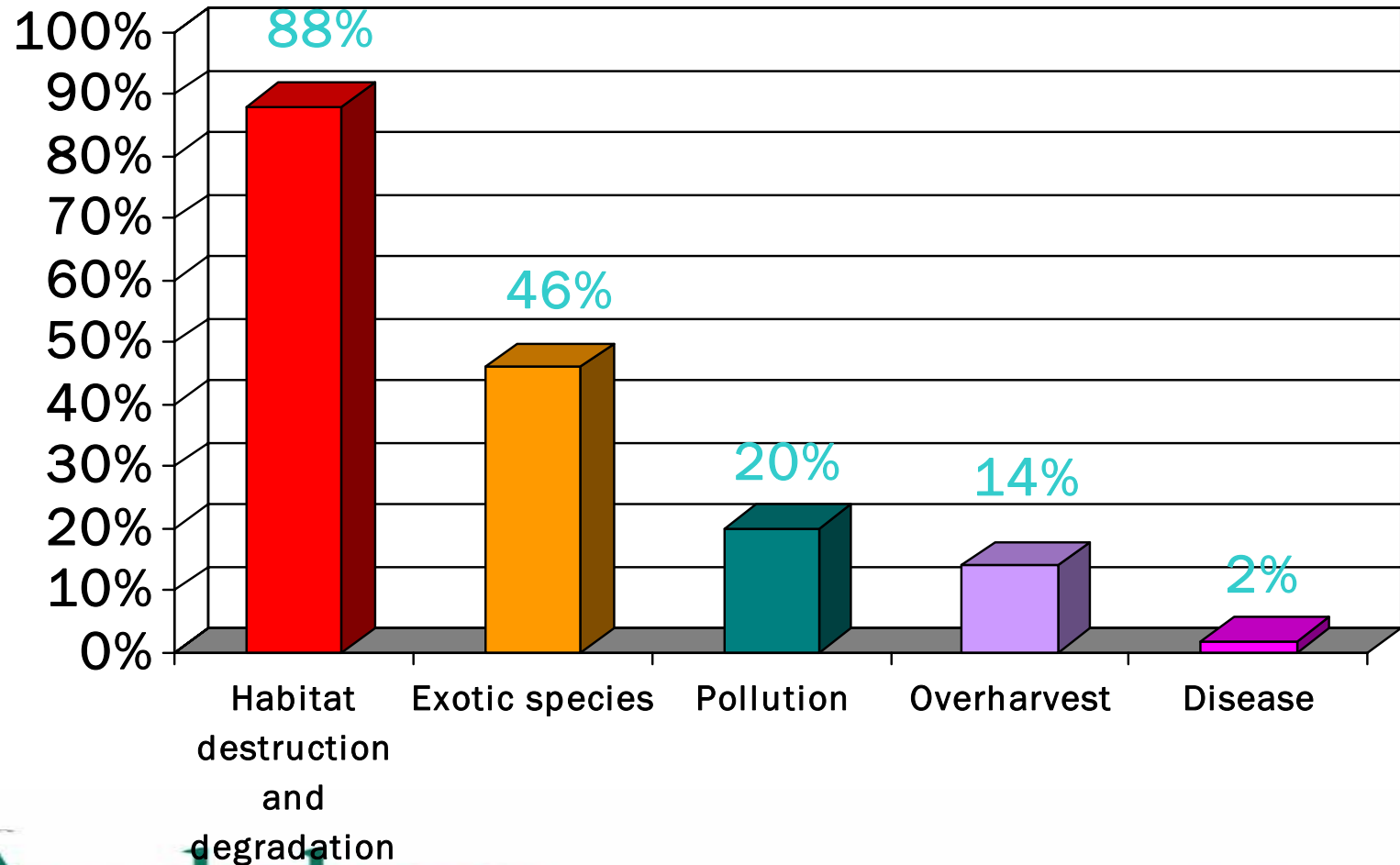


Southern Nevada IBAs

- Pahrnagat Valley Complex
- Meadow Valley Wash
- Oasis Valley
- Sheep Range
- Ash Meadows
- Moapa Valley
- Virgin River
- Spring Mountains
- Lake Mead
- Wee Thump Joshua Tree
- Catclaw Washes



Causes for Species Decline in the U.S.



IBA Conservation Issues

- Habitat degradation & fragmentation
 - OHV
 - Grazing impacts
 - Human disturbance
- Invasive plants
 - Salt Cedar; cheatgrass
- Water quantity & quality
- Development or changing land uses
- Wildfire



IBA Program Goals

- Establish habitat conservation priorities in the IBAs
 - Protection/Conservation
 - Enhancement
 - Restoration



IBA Program Goals (cont.)

- Foster partnership development with all stakeholders
 - Federal and state agencies
 - Private landowners
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - Land stewards



Benefits of IBA Partnerships

- Improve coordination of resources and efforts to address bird habitat conservation needs
 - Landscape level which is beneficial to all wildlife
- Acquisition of resources
 - Grant writing
- Implementation of conservation projects
- Monitoring
- Data management
- Long term success of conservation action(s)



IBA Benefits to Birds

- Monitoring and research
- Planning
- Habitat management
- Open-space priorities
- Easements and acquisitions
- Public education and outreach





IBA Benefits to Stakeholders

- Avi-centric focus
- Science-based Advocacy
- Provide guidance & technical support for stakeholders
 - Federal and state agencies
 - Private landowners
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - Land stewards



IBA Benefits to Stakeholders

- Input and guidance into planning processes
 - H-T National Forest planning
 - Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
 - NDOW WAP
 - Bureau of Land Management RMPs
 - Habitat Conservation Planning
 - Other



Example

- **Carson River Delta IBA**
 - **Fencing project**
 - ~ 15 miles of fence line
 - Reduction of wild horse herd
 - Protection of riparian zone
 - Reduce overgrazing impacts from livestock and wild horses
 - Project cooperators: Nevada State Parks, Bureau of Reclamation, LAS

Future IBA Program Activities

- Develop umbrella IBA Strategic Plan
 - Individual Conservation Action Strategy Plan for each IBA
 - Outline of projects to address conservation needs
- Address site specific concerns/risks
- Provide science-based technical support



Future IBA Program Activities

- Prioritize IBAs based on level of risk
 - Highest risk IBAs= Carson Valley, Carson River Delta, Walker Lake, Swan Lake, Lahontan Wetlands
- Deliver “product” to stakeholders
 - WAP, HCPs, etc.
- Coordinate with stakeholders in project development, easements, on-the-ground implementation



Future IBA Program Activities

- Second IBA Nomination Round
- Promote citizen-scientist activities
 - Engage private landowners
- Identify, develop, and coordinate cooperative conservation projects with stakeholders





Types of IBA Projects

- **Management** - projects that enhance or restore the existing habitats in IBAs.
- **Capitol** - projects that make long-term commitments to land conservation through easements, acquisition, or cost-share.
- **Outreach** - projects that provide educational programs or materials to the public about IBAs.
- **Research** - projects that provide scientific collection and analysis of natural resource data to gain a better understanding of the ecology of birds at IBA sites.



Conclusion

- The IBA designation elevates the importance of an area for bird conservation which can be an effective tool for mobilizing resources to protect that site.
- The program provides stewardship for native birds and their habitat.



Questions??

Thank you.

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